

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A connector for connecting an associated electrical component having a tab-type electrical terminal to an associated conductor, comprising:

a non-conducting housing base having a bottom wall, an upstanding front wall and upstanding, opposing side walls generally transverse to the front wall, the housing base defining a well, the front wall having a notch formed therein for receiving the associated conductor, the bottom wall having an opening therein for receiving the tab-type electrical terminal; and

a conductive contact carried by the housing base, disposed in the well, the contact having conductor receiving elements generally aligned with and on opposing sides of the notch in the housing front wall, the conductor receiving elements configured for receiving the conductor therebetween, the contact further including first and second terminal engaging portions defining a tab-receiving region therebetween, the contact carried by the housing base to dispose the tab-receiving region in overlying relation to the housing base bottom wall opening,

wherein the tab-type terminal, inserted through the housing base bottom wall opening, is received in the contact tab-receiving region, and is in electrical contact with the conductor positioned between the conductor receiving elements.

2. The connector in accordance with claim 1 wherein the tab-receiving region is defined by a biased spring leg and a side wall of the contact.

3. The connector in accordance with claim 2 wherein the biased spring leg and the side wall of the contact define a gap therebetween.

4. The connector in accordance with claim 3 wherein the gap overlies the opening defined in the housing base bottom wall.

5. The connector in accordance with claim 1 including a cover configured to fit onto the housing base.

6. The connector in accordance with claim 5 wherein the cover and housing base are configured for fitting onto one another in a first opened position and a second closed position.

7. The connector in accordance with claim 6 wherein the cover is configured to receive the associated conductor in the opened position and wherein the cover is configured to urge the conductor between the conductor receiving elements in the closed position.

8. The connector in accordance with claim 7 wherein the cover includes an anvil portion for urging the conductor between the conductor receiving elements when the cover is in the second position.

9. The connector in accordance with claim 1 wherein the housing base front wall includes retaining fingers disposed on opposing sides of the notch for retaining the conductor in the connector when the conductor is positioned between the conductor receiving elements.

10. The connector in accordance with claim 1 wherein the housing base is formed on a carrier a predetermined distance from a second housing base formed on the carrier.

11. The connector in accordance with claim 1 wherein the contact is formed on a carrier a predetermined distance from a second contact formed on the carrier.

12. A connector for connecting an associated electrical component having a tab-type electrical terminal to an associated conductor, comprising:

a non-conducting housing base having a bottom wall, an upstanding front wall and upstanding, opposing side walls generally transverse to the front wall, the housing base defining a well, the front wall having a notch formed therein for receiving the associated conductor, the bottom wall having an opening therein for receiving the tab-type electrical terminal; and

a conductive contact carried by housing base, disposed in the well, the contact including means for receiving and retaining the conductor in engagement with the contact and means for receiving and retaining the component terminal, to provide electrical contact of the conductor and the component terminal.

13. The connector in accordance with claim 12 wherein the means for receiving and retaining the component terminal is a biased element.

14. The connector in accordance with claim 12 wherein the biased element is a spring leg.

15. The connector in accordance with claim 14 wherein the biased element is a plurality of spring legs.

16. The connector in accordance with claim 12 wherein the housing base is formed on a carrier a predetermined distance from a second housing base formed on the carrier.

17. The connector in accordance with claim 12 wherein the contact is formed on a carrier a predetermined distance from a second contact formed on the carrier.

18. A method for making a connector for connecting an associated electrical component having a tab-type electrical terminal to an associated conductor, comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of connector housing bases on a housing base carrier, each of the connector housing bases being a first predetermined distance from each of its adjacent housing bases;

forming a plurality of contacts on a contact carrier, each of the contacts being a second predetermined distance from each of its adjacent contacts;

aligning a first of the plurality of contacts with a first of the plurality of housing bases; and

securing the first of the plurality of contacts in the first of the housing bases with which it is aligned.

19. The method in accordance with claim 18 including the steps of indexing the housing base carrier and indexing the contact carrier to align a second of the plurality of contacts with a second of the plurality housing bases and securing the second of the plurality of contacts in the second of the housing bases with which it is aligned.

20. The method in accordance with claim 18 including the steps of providing a connecting region on a first housing base carrier and connecting the first housing base carrier with a second housing base carrier to form an elongated strip.

21. The method in accordance with claim 18 including the steps of forming a plurality of connector housing covers on a cover base carrier, each of the connector housing covers being a first predetermined distance from each of its adjacent housing covers, aligning a first of the plurality of connector housing covers with a first of the plurality of housing bases, and securing the first of the plurality of housing covers to the first of the housing bases with which it is aligned.

22. The method in accordance with claim 21 including the steps of indexing the housing base carrier and indexing the housing cover carrier to align a second of the plurality of housing base covers with a second of the plurality housing bases and securing the second of the plurality of housing base covers on the second of the housing bases with which it is aligned.